The education sector has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In early March, the entire SJSU institution transitioned in less than a week from in-person teaching to remote learning. Faculty and students had to adjust to new technology and pedagogical tools in record time. All the campus community faced a daunting organizational challenge and gave proof of resilience and flexibility. The health and economic turmoil disrupted academic evaluation services and GMAT/GRE testing facilities across the world. To facilitate the application and admission processes for prospective students, the Lucas Graduate School of Business decided to (1) automatically waive the GMAT/GRE score requirement for all applicants to graduate degrees for the Fall 2020 admission cycle and (2) extended the application deadline to June 1st. Such changes appear to have had a positive impact, and we are expecting to at least match last year's enrollment numbers in the MST program and other business graduate degrees. Given the job losses in the economy and the challenging financial environment, we are lucky that we will be able to educate another large group of students who will become tomorrow's Bay Area business leaders.

The MST program, like all programs offered by the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business, will continue delivering courses using remote learning during the rest of the year. The learning experience will be very different than in previous semesters, but the adoption of new technology and changes in our pedagogical approach will allow us to deliver quality education in this online environment.

This challenging situation also represents an opportunity for our institution to find new ways to educate students and facilitate the development of their professional and soft skills. For instance, starting this fall, the MST will integrate in the curriculum an AI platform designed to evaluate students' oral communication skills and provide resources for improvement. While we are meeting the current challenges of a shelter-in-place environment, the MST program is also considering how remote learning will permanently impact the academic program. We are conducting focus groups and surveying the students to assess the optimal schedule and course delivery modes that will insure a successful and rigorous program for years to come.

Marco Pagani, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Lucas Graduate School of Business

Professor Annette Nellen, Director of the MST Program, made several presentations this spring. This includes live and online presentations for the ABA Tax Section on virtual currency taxation, COVID-19 tax change webinars for CalCPA and others, and AB 5 pitfalls for the CalCPA. In May, Professor Nellen completes 6 1/2 years of service to the AICPA Tax Executive Committee including 2 1/2 years as chair. This committee represents the 400,000+ membership of the AICPA on all tax policy and procedural matters. She joins the AICPA Tax Practice and Procedure Committee as a member starting this May.
**STUDENT NEWS**

Congratulations to Gabrielle Ng  
Outstanding MST Graduate for Spring 2020

“I originally planned to only take a few classes through open enrollment to further my understanding on certain topics I was interested in. However I quickly learned how valuable the MST program was for my career in tax. The program solidified the foundation of my tax knowledge and gave me the confidence in my research and technical abilities to apply at work and also provide thorough answers to questions that came up. The faculty are amazing and will go above and beyond to help students understand the complex tax laws. I encourage current and prospective students to take advantage of all the MST program has to offer and not be afraid to ask questions in class or introduce yourself to fellow classmates. The relationships built in these classrooms will continue outside as colleagues in the tax field and be a great resource for you in the future. Enjoy your time in the program and I am confident this is a decision you will not regret.” - Gabby Ng

-Tell Your Colleagues -

Besides your testimonial, please refer them to this website:  
http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/programs/mst/index.html

Expand Your Tax Knowledge and Career with an SJSU Tax Practice Certificate

The MST program offers a 9-unit Tax Practice Certificate that includes a tax research course and two electives. This certificate helps people moving from audit to tax, wanting to broaden their tax knowledge, get nine more units towards the 150 needed to become a CPA, or get started on the MST degree. The units can be taken all in one semester or spread out over two to six years. For more information see https://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/programs/advanced-certificates/tax-practice/index.html.

Upcoming Information Sessions

Information sessions are scheduled for:

**Tax Practice Certificate**
- Tuesday, June 23, 2020 from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Thursday, July 9, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm

**MST Program**
- Tuesday, September 22, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 20, 2020 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- Monday, November 2, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm

All session will be conducted via Zoom. For more information, and to register for any of these events, go to: http://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/events/index.html

MST students and alums: Have news to share with others? Please send details to catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu.

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**ALUMNI NEWS**

Jacqueline Matoza, CPA, MST

Jacqueline Matoza, CPA, MST has over 14 years of experience in tax and accounting. She received her Master’s of Taxation degree from San Jose State University and completed her Bachelor’s of Accountancy from the University of San Diego in 2006.

She is an International Tax Director at Gilead Sciences Inc. responsible for international tax planning, streamlining / automating international tax processes, and international tax technical changes for her department. Jacqueline has managed global teams as large as 25 people and coordinated with various leadership teams and business partners to implement new tax legislation, ERP upgrades, and new or changes to processes that impacts all business partners.

Prior to working at Gilead, Jacqueline worked at Gap Inc., Square Inc. and SunPower Corporation. She started her career in international tax at Ernst & Young, LLP where she dedicated her 7 years to advising Fortune 10 and 100 in-bound and out-bound multi-national companies on pre- and post-acquisition planning / integration, IP migrations, international tax planning, providing FAS 109 (now ASC 740) and compliance impacts on her various projects.

Jacqueline has expanded her business acumen to launch a real estate business in 2018 where she holds real estate investments, flips real estate as well as partners with others on development projects. She is now also in the process of launching an online digital course on flipping homes as well as financial advice for those in need. Jacqueline likes to give back through mentoring tax professionals as well as women in tax to develop and build their careers. She enjoys speaking at tax conferences to share her tax technical knowledge, leadership insights as well as management philosophies.

Jacqueline’s main advice for MST students is to apply the rules you learn in your Master’s program and career to your personal life too – never forget to tax plan for yourself, pay yourself first, the person with the most options wins, and you get more when you give.